

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2-7, 9, 10 and 12 are amended, claims 16-19 are added, and claims 1, 11 and 13-15 are cancelled, leaving claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12 and 16-19 pending with claim 16 being independent. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becerra et al. (U.S. 2004/0072049) in view of Cornell (U.S. 4,079,729). Claims 9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becerra in view of Cornell as applied to claims 1-4, 6 and 7, and further in view of Yoshiki et al. (JP 03-015467). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becerra in view of Cornell as applied to claims 1-4, 6 and 7, and further in view of Hsu (U.S. 2003/0097762). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becerra in view of Cornell as applied to claims 1-4, 6 and 7 above, and further in view of Ebbeson (U.S. 4,416,617). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Becerra.

These rejections are moot since claim 1 has been cancelled and each of the remaining dependent claims is now dependent from new independent claim 16.

New Claims

New independent claim 16 and its dependent claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12 and 17-19 are allowable over the cited prior art. In particular, new independent claim 16 recites a fuel cell system comprising a liquid fuel container comprising a liquid fuel holding section configured to hold liquid fuel, and a coloring agent disposed in at least part of the outer peripheral portion of the liquid fuel holding section, the coloring agent being configured to change the color of the liquid fuel when the coloring agent comes in contact with liquid fuel leaked from the liquid fuel holding section, wherein a container mounting portion has an inlet port through which the liquid fuel is supplied from the liquid fuel container into the power generation module.

New claim 16 recites subject matter disclosed in Figs. 1, 2C and 2D, which the Examiner indicated as disclosing additional structure that could be considered allowable.

In particular, independent claim 16 recites an inlet port through which the liquid fuel is supplied from the liquid fuel container into the power generation module. Each of the cited references fails to disclose or render obvious this claim element. Therefore, since claim 16 now recites subject matter that is not disclosed in nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art, Applicants submit that independent claim 16 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Makoto IYODA et al.

/Jeffrey J. Howell/

By 2010.03.30 09:54:40 -04'00'

Jeffrey J. Howell

Registration No. 46,402

Attorney for Applicants

JJH/ekb
Washington, D.C. 20005-1503
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
March 30, 2010